

REMARKS / CONCLUSION

The present application contains twelve (12) claims, numbered 5-12 and 14-16 and 19.

Claims 1-4, 13, 17 are cancelled by the present amendment. Claim 18 remains cancelled as the result of an earlier amendment.

Claims 5, 14 and 15 have been amended to place them into independent form.

Claim 19 is new, and is identical to claim 16 except for the dependency on claim 14 instead of on claim 15.

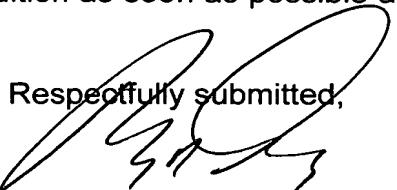
On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 5-12 and 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewrite all of these claims as independent claims, Applicant has only rewritten claims 5, 14 and 15 as independent claims, and respectfully submits that the remaining claims (including new claim 19) are allowable by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

In conclusion, Applicant is of the view that claims 5-12, 14-16 and 19 are in allowable form. Favourable reconsideration is requested. Early allowance of the Application is earnestly solicited.

If the application is not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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